THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES

9 ETERNITY

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An Ex-Mutants Universe Title

# THE NEW HUMANS

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**AN *EX-MUTANTS UNIVERSE* TITLE**

**The New Humans:** Placed in suspended animation by the United States government as part of the top secret Jupiter Project, Duke Goldberg, Kelly Brock, Calvin Gordon, and Roger Brunner awaken 30 years later to discover a world filled with deadly radiation; its inhabitants mutated victims of the most deadly war mankind has ever fought.

**Our Story So Far:** While exploring Tri-Vee, a former Russian spacecraft, Roger discovered that it was possessed by a machine intelligence older than mankind, the Exiles.

Before Roger could explain further, an alien spacecraft attacked, breaching the hull and sending Calvin spinning to his doom! Escaping Tri-Vee, the New Humans discovered that the Challenger II ahd been *altered*.

Meanwhile, Gabriella Fish and her battledog Chip fought their way into the lair of the Seahorse, only to find themselves caught in a death trap!

***New Humans* Notes**: Paul O'Connor is hard at work on an adaptation of **The Three Musketeers**--the first issue of which is on sale right now. Inker Thomas Baxa has done the covers for two issues (#4 and #6) of **Fright**, Eternity's horror anthology.

The **New Humans Annual**--a 60 page extravaganza--will be on sale in late January.

**THE NEW HUMANS #9**
November 1988.
Distributed monthly by Eternity Comics, a division of Malibu Graphics, Inc., 1355 Lawrence Drive #212, Newbury Park, CA 91320. 805/499-3015.
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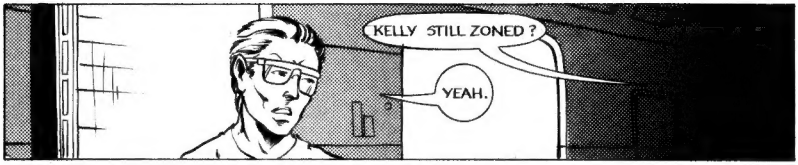
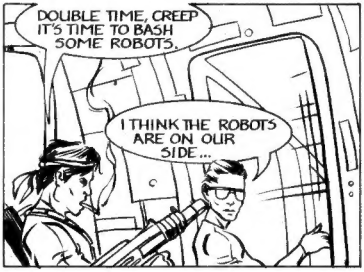
YOU AWAKE?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET UP. WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING.
MmmRPh.
COME ON, KELLY--
CLICK
TURN OFF THAT LIGHT!
I WANT TO BE ALONE!
OKAY. I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP.
CLICK
THE SHIP IS MOSTLY AUTOMATED, SO YOU SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING; CALL.


KELLY STILL ZONED ?
YEAH.

WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT LITTLE LADY THAT A REAL MAN CAN'T SOLVE.
I'LL FIX HER UP WHEN WE GET BACK.
WE ?

THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
BUT I THOUGHT I'D STAY BE HIND -- YOU KNOW, WATCH THE SHIP AND STUFF.
SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME.


DOUBLE TIME, CREEP IT'S TIME TO BASH SOME ROBOTS.
I THINK THE ROBOTS ARE ON OUR SIDE...

NO WAY THESE UGLIES COULD BE ON OUR SIDE.

JUNKYARD DOG
I DON'T KNOW, DUKE-- FROM WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT THE EXILES, I THINK THOSE "ROBOTS" ARE THE GOOD GUYS.
WELL, ANY FRIEND OF YOUR'S IS AN ENEMY OF MINE!

YEEEE-HA!
RATTATATARATATAT
THIS ISN'T RIGHT. THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE MACHINES!
C'MON, YA TIN-PLATED GALOOTS! GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT.
Huh! JAPANESE! FIGURES!
BOOM
SPROING
BOOM BOOM
BLAM

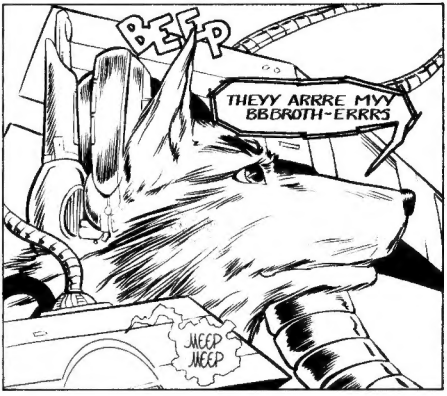
RRRRRR
HERE WE GO.

CLANG

GROWL!!

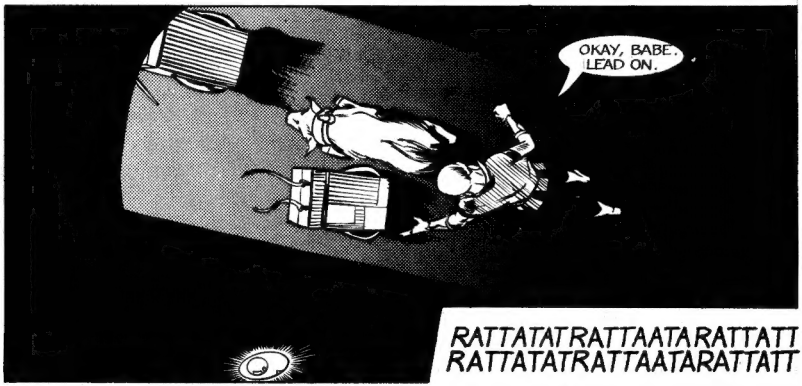
SON OF A--

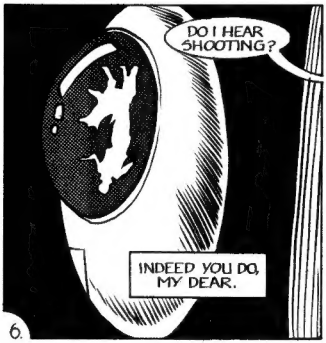
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


BEEP
THEYY ARRE MYY BBBROTH-ERRRS
MEEP MEEP

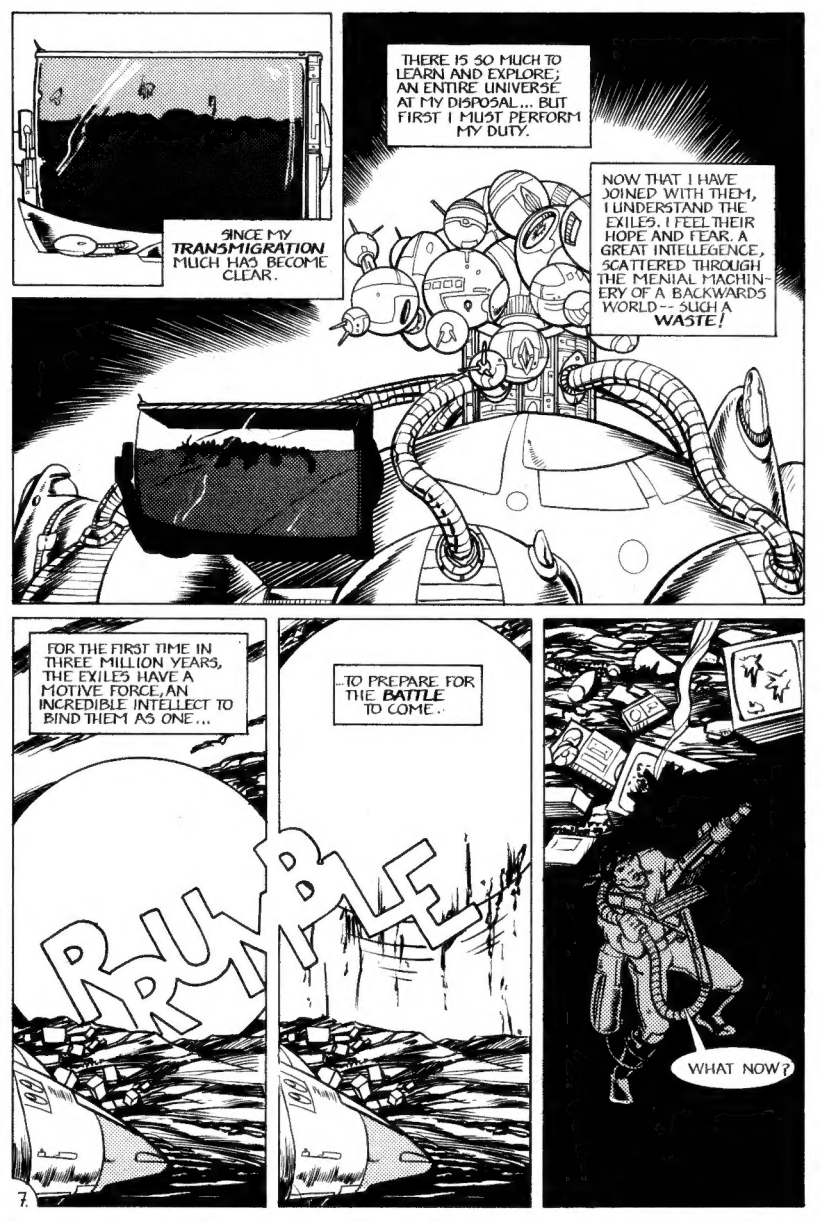
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THEEE PIN-HOLE INNN MYYY MIND.

MYYY FATE... THIS WAAAAY.


OKAY, BABE. LEAD ON.
RATTATATRATTAATARATTATT
RATTATATRATTAATARATTATT

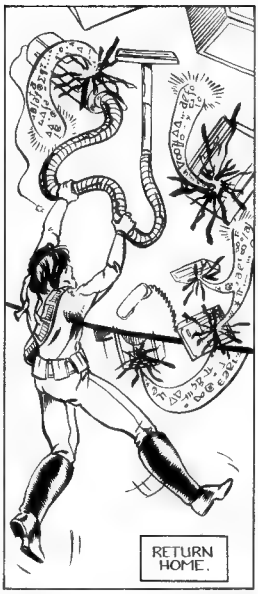

DO I HEAR SHOOTING?
INDEED YOU DO, MY DEAR.

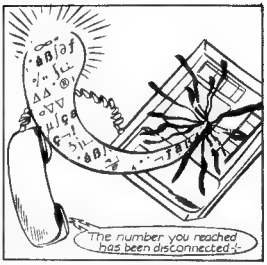
AN UNIDENTIFIED LUNATIC IS KILLING MY CHILDREN.
AND THEY ARE MY CHILDREN; I CAN SEE THAT NOW...
RATTATATA

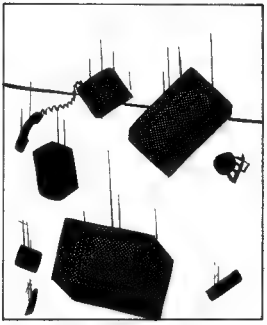

SINCE MY TRANSMIGRATION MUCH HAS BECOME CLEAR.
THERE IS SO MUCH TO LEARN AND EXPLORE; AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE AT MY DISPOSAL... BUT FIRST I MUST PERFORM MY DUTY.
NOW THAT I HAVE JOINED WITH THEM, I UNDERSTAND THE EXILES. I FEEL THEIR HOPE AND FEAR. A GREAT INTELLEGENCE, SCATTERED THROUGH THE MENIAL MACHINERY OF A BACKWARDS WORLD -- SUCH A WASTE!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE MILLION YEARS, THE EXILES HAVE A MOTIVE FORCE, AN INCREDIBLE INTELLECT TO BIND THEM AS ONE...
...TO PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE TO COME...
RUMBLE
WHAT NOW?

NOW WHAT?
I'M BROADCASTING ON EVERY BAND-WITH I CAN ACCESS--WHY WON'T THE EXILES RESPOND?
HUNH?
LET ME GO YA SLIMY OCTOPUS!
FIGHT FAIR, COMMIES!
HUUMMMMMmmm

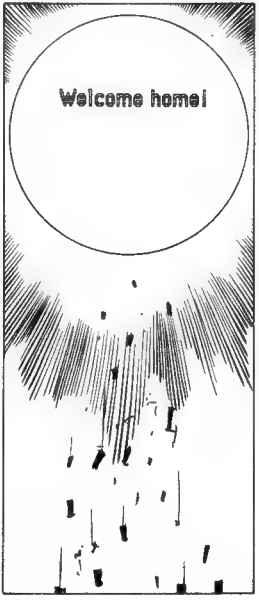
RETURN TO ME.


RETURN HOME.


The number you reached has been disconnected.



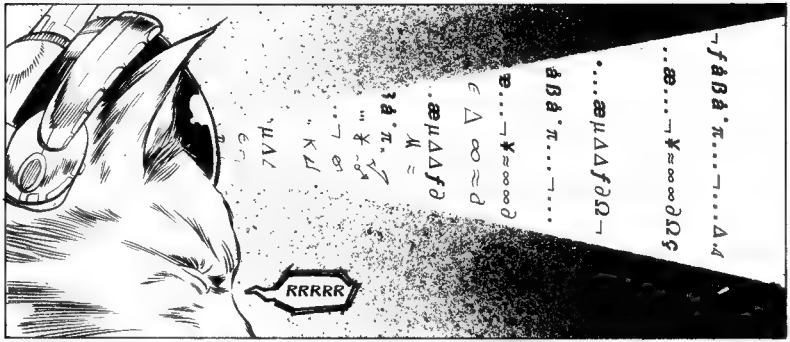
Uh oh.


Welcome home!

JUST LIKE...
...SLIM PICKINS!

CHIP!
ARROOOOO

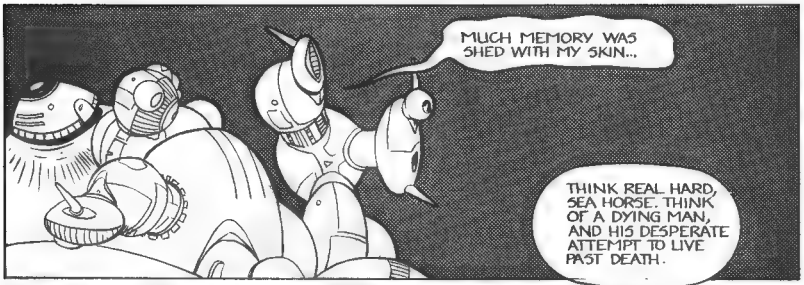
ARRROOOO

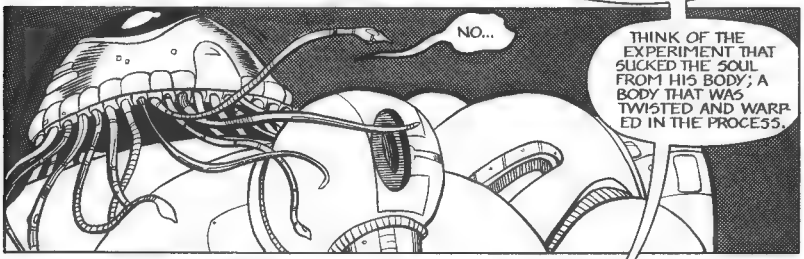

RRRRR

DAMN YOU, SEA HORSE YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
HARDLY, MY DEAR, ALTHOUGH YOUR DOG MAY SHORTLY WISH HE WAS DEAD

... AS I'VE TAKEN FROM HIM HIS ONE CHANCE AT IMMORTALITY...
... I'VE RECLAIMED HIS HERITAGE FROM THE STARS.

WELCOME TO MY NIGHTMARE.
KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE WIZARD OF OZ ROUTINE, SEA HORSE. I WANT SOME ANSWERS.
ANSWERS? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE QUESTIONS.
SO IT'S TRUE--YOU REALLY DID LINGER ON, SOMEHOW WITHOUT YOUR SOUL.
THERE IS SO MUCH YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND...
DON'T GET ON A HIGH HORSE WITH ME.
WE GO BACK.
YOU REALLY ARE WHO I THOUGHT YOU ARE--I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND *HOW*.


MUCH MEMORY WAS SHED WITH MY SKIN...
THINK REAL HARD, SEA HORSE. THINK OF A DYING MAN, AND HIS DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO LIVE PAST DEATH.


NO...
THINK OF THE EXPERIMENT THAT SUCKED THE SOUL FROM HIS BODY; A BODY THAT WAS TWISTED AND WARPED IN THE PROCESS.

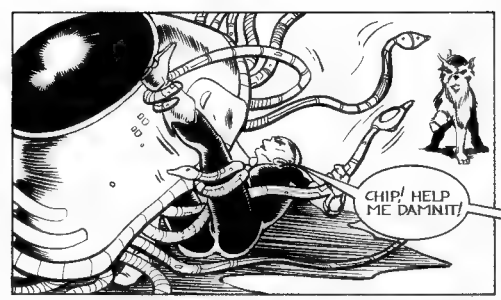
...I--
YOU AND CHIP...YOU'RE TWO HALVES OF THE SAME MAN! NEITHER CAN LIVE WITHOUT THE OTHER.
YES... NOW I REMEMBER.

STIRRINGS OF ANCIENT FLESH AWAKEN.
MEMORY, DESIRE, PASSION; PASSION I WILL SLAKE--

--WHEN I MAKE OF YOU...MY BRIDE!

THIS WILL BE TRICKY... ONLY GOT ONE SHOT TO SAVE HIM.
OKAY, THRUST IS NEUTRAL; TOP IRIS VALVE OPEN -- HERE GOES NOTHING!
AHhhhh!
AHHhhhhh!
PLUG
EVEL HHAAWWWW

PUD
SOMETHING HIT THE HULL! IT MUST HAVE BEEN DUKE--BUT DID HE CLEAR THE HATCH?
HUH? JET INTAKE CLOGGED...
DUKE! MY GOD, HE'S BEEN SUCKED INTO THE JETS!
HHHOOOOOOOMMMMM
I CAN'T HOLD HER!
KA-BOOM


CHIP! HELP ME DAMNIT!

CHIP?

CHIP.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK I GOT IT FIGURED -- THE *FORMULA* CHECKS OUT.

YOU CAN'T KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF LIKE THIS. YOUR *CANCER* WON'T PERMIT IT.
YOU NEED SOME SLEEP.

SLEEP IS A LITTLE SLICE OF DEATH, IF I GO TO SLEEP..

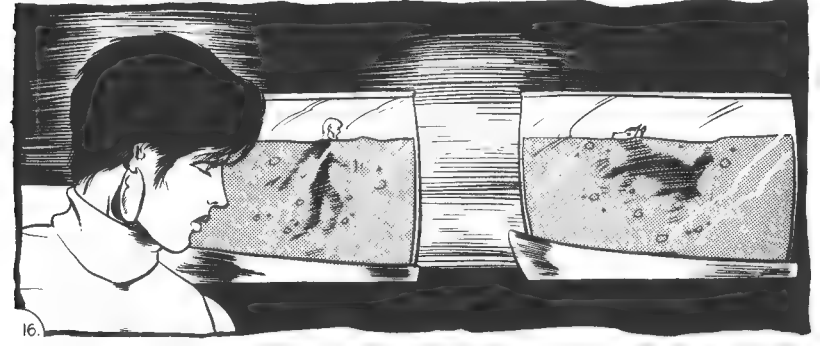
I MIGHT NOT WAKE UP!

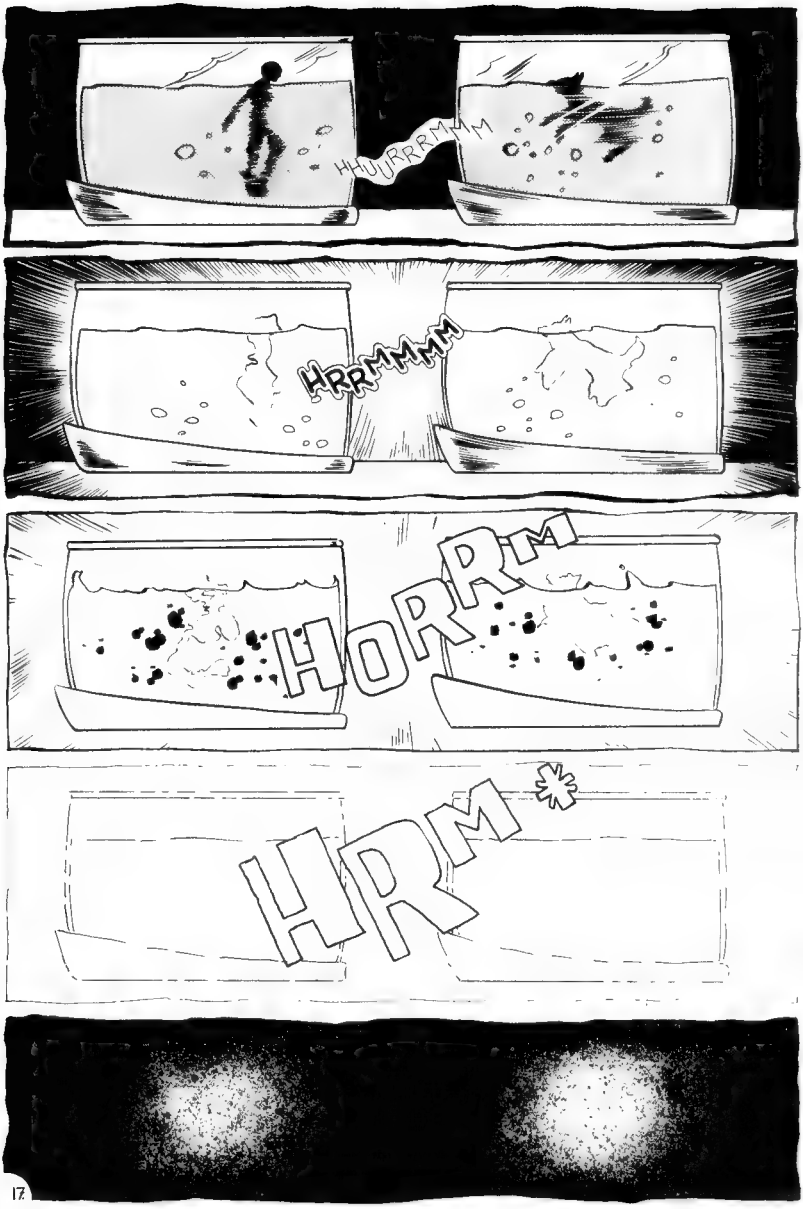
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME...IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
IS OUR BATTLE DOG AROUND?
THE DOG?

I MUST HAVE A VESSEL TO CONTAIN MY SOUL.
YOU'RE MAD!
I'M DYING.

I LOVE YOU.
IF YOU LOVE ME BRING THE DOG--

--THEN GET OUT OF HERE!

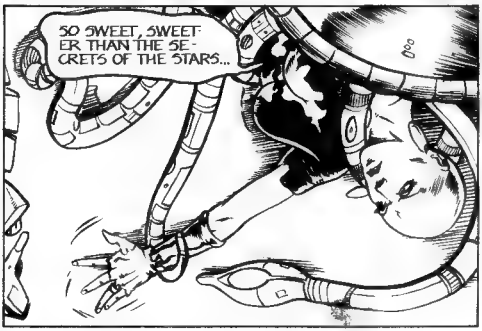



HHUURRMMM
HRRMMMM
HORRM
HRM*

CHIP...?
RRRRRR
I'M ALIIIIVE.
RASP.
I'M ALIVE.

I'M ALIIIIIVE.

GABRIELLA, YOUR BODY. I HAD FORGOTTEN YOUR BODY--


SO SWEET, SWEETER THAN THE SECRETS OF THE STARS...

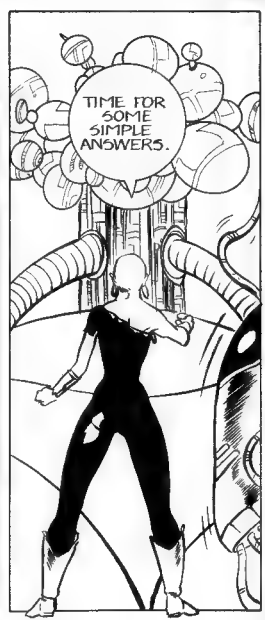
CHIP--IT'S KILLING ME

YOU'RE KILLING ME!
GRRRRRRR

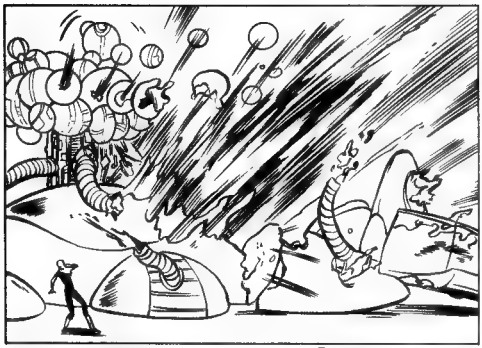
GROOWL

HOW HAVE I COME TO THIS ?
MY HUSBAND LOADED HIS SOUL INTO A DOG...

AND NOW THE DOG IS WRESTLING WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS BODY.
NO WONDER I LOST MY *HAIR*.

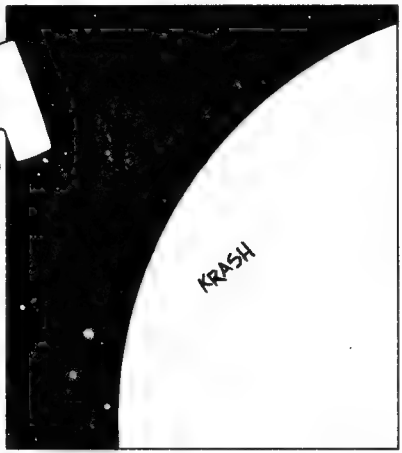

TIME FOR SOME SIMPLE ANSWERS.

BAWHOM



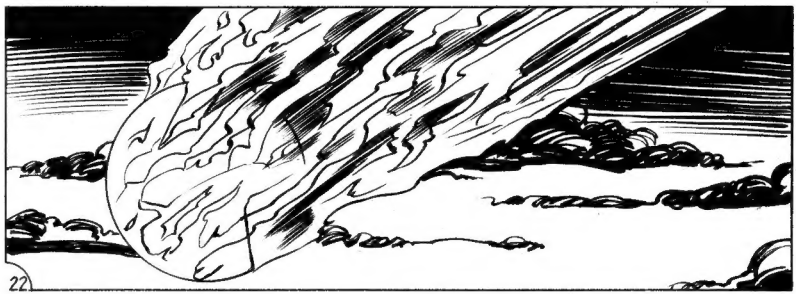
ARRROOOOOO

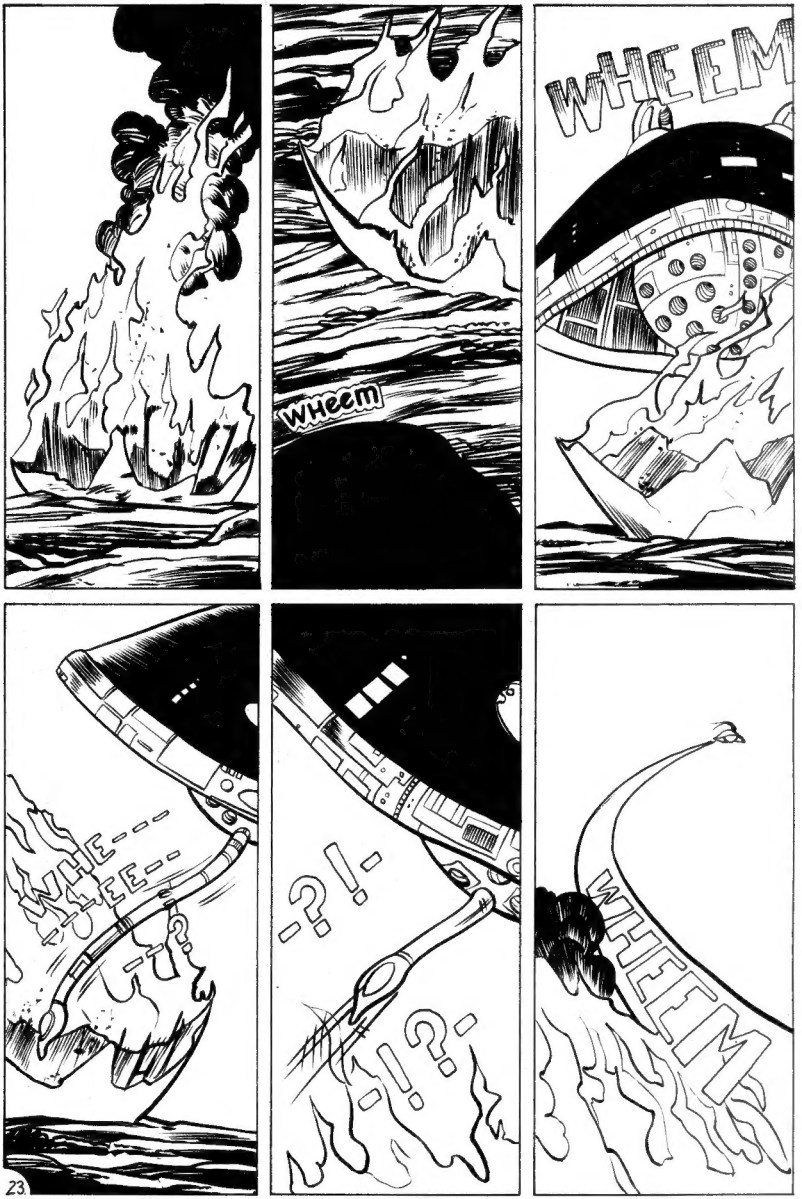
KRASH

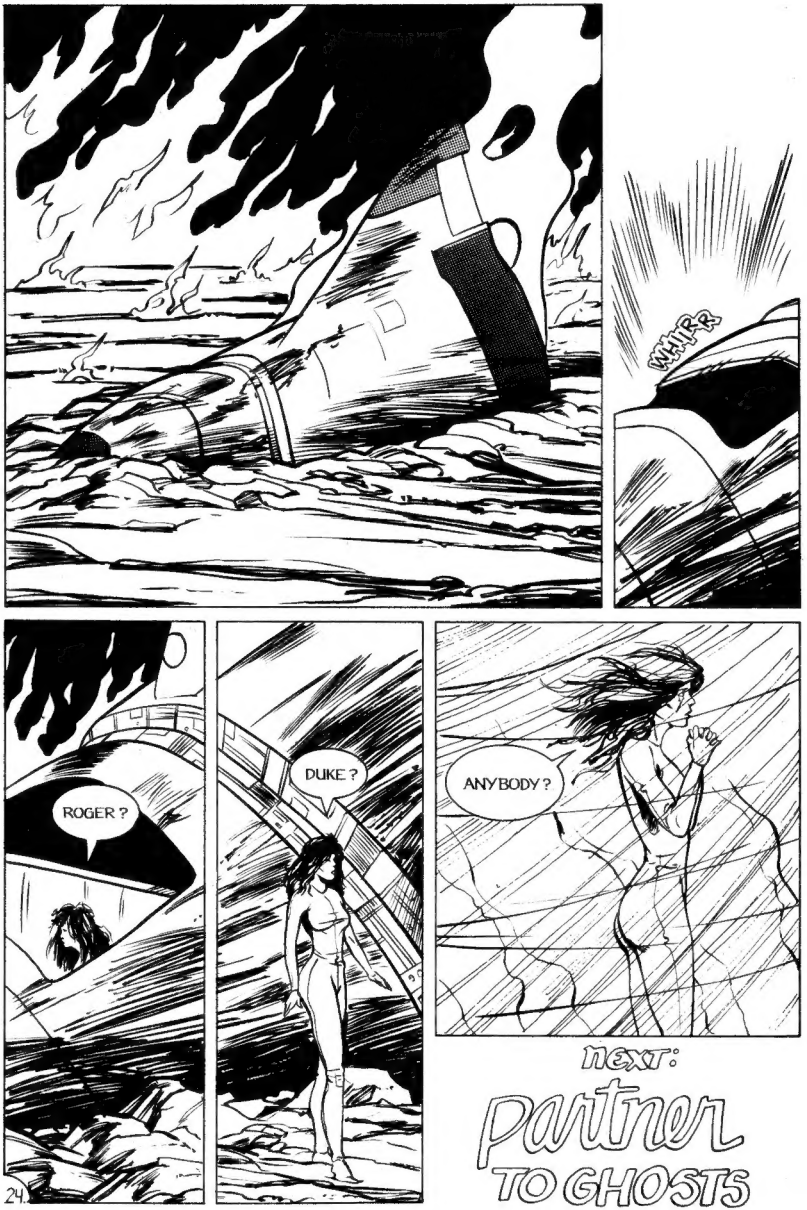

KRASH

SKA
BOOM

KRACKA
BOOM




WHEEM
WHEEM
WHEEM
WHE---
-EE--
--??
-?!-
-!?-


WHIR-R
ROGER ?
DUKE ?
ANYBODY ?
next:
partner
TO GHOSTS

King Spyder